

PUBLIC HEARING

JUNE 13, 2012

A public hearing of the Council of the County of Kaua'i was called to order by Jay Furfaro, Chair, Committee of the Whole, on Wednesday, June 13, 2012, at 2:44 p.m. at the Council Chambers, Historic County Building, 4396 Rice Street, Suite 201, Lihu'e, Kaua'i, and the presence of the following was noted:

Honorable Tim Bynum
Honorable Dickie Chang
Honorable KipuKai Kualii
Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Honorable Mel Rapozo
Honorable JoAnn A. Yukimura
Honorable Jay Furfaro, Committee Chair

The Clerk read the notice of the public hearing on the following:

"Resolution No. 2012-42, RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF THE FEE SIMPLE INTEREST IN LANDS REQUIRED FOR PUBLIC USE, TO WIT: THE PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE PATH WHICH CONSTITUTES PART OF PUBLIC PARK SYSTEM, SITUATE AT WAIPOULI, DISTRICT OF KAWAIIHAU, COUNTY OF KAUAI, HAWAII, AND DETERMINING AND DECLARING THE NECESSITY OF THE ACQUISITION THEREOF BY EMINENT DOMAIN,"

which was passed on first reading and ordered to print by the Council of the County of Kaua'i on May 23, 2012, and published in *The Garden Island* newspaper on May 30, 2012.

The following communication was received for the record:

1. Glenn Mickens, dated June 12, 2012

The hearing proceeded as follows:

Chair Furfaro: First of all, Mr. Mickens, may I ask you, have you gotten a diagram of the proposed acquisition.

MR. MICKENS: No, I did not get that yet, Jay.

Chair Furfaro: Staff, could you please give this to Mr. Mickens.

Mr. Mickens: Thank you.

Chair Furfaro: Staff, would you also so note to the Administration that in the future, this is our third request, that maps should be included in any acquisition, whether it is Parks, Planning, or Public Works, for any purpose for the County, that maps and tax key references should be a part of the communication to the Council. Thank you, Glenn.

Mr. Mickens: Thank you, Jay. You have copy of my testimony, I had it for another item on the agenda but they are basically the same, so I will be able to read it now.

When will this impossible dream of a 23.6 mile multi-use path ever end? I have attached articles from the Garden Island giving the length as sixteen (16) to twenty-three (23) miles. I am not sure that the builders of this path even know what the final product will be. As Communication 2012-186 states, we are again needing to acquire private land at a cost of \$18,551.00 of taxpayers money. Remember that about a year ago, Councilman Rapozo's research uncovered just one (1) glaring example of those pushing this path were underestimating costs. The original projected cost by path proponents was about, I think it was \$3,000.00, whereas the contractor's actual estimate was over \$300,000.00 as you remember, Mel. We have spent \$30.2 million on 6.8 miles of finished path, \$4.4 million per mile, that has taken ten (10) years to complete. Again, those pushing this project said that the 23.6 miles when completed would cost around \$50 million. Whereas, real math and actual numbers show the cost will be \$105 million or possibly more as property is bought and condemned, plus inflation. These numbers are verified by the State Department of Transportation so they are not skewed. I ask those proponents of this path once again what this obscene amount of money being spent on a low priority project is going to do for the mass of the people on Kaua'i. Saying that it will get people in shape is a red herring, just as all the exercise equipment sitting in a room gathering dust is getting anyone in shape. People only need will power to get in shape, and not a multimillion dollar path. I know like I sound like a broken record, I have been on this thing for quite a while since they proposed it. But there are so many important projects that we are leaving go while they are pursuing this bike path in the millions of dollars it is going to take to finish it. And again, people are not going to drive from all over the island to walk on a path if it is ever finished. You see the problems, you read the article probably in the Garden Island today, and the letters to the editor about right there at the Wailua Beach Park as you come across the bridge going Northbound. It is falling into the ocean, there is hardly any sand left there, somebody called me the other day about it, the lifeguard station, I do not know, they moved it, I do not know. I heard before that somebody said it had actually fallen over, the lifeguard station. So there is many, many issues that need addressing that we should be devoting our time and energy to doing. Thank you very much, Jay, and thank you for the map.

Chair Furfaro: I think Vice Chair Yukimura has a question for you. I saw your hand up, I am sorry. You do not have a question? And then you have the map, Glenn?

Mr. Mickens: Yes, Jay, thank you.

Chair Furfaro: We will make that request to the Administration in the future.

Mr. Mickens: Thank you.

Chair Furfaro: Thank you.

There being no further testimony on this matter, the public hearing adjourned at 2:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


EDUARDO TOPENIO, JR.
Administrative Assistant